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April 23, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As Governors from Atlantic coastal states, we applaud your leadership in convening the Atlantic States Offshore Wind Consortium. We share your enthusiasm for the potential of offshore wind to create clean energy jobs, generate emissions free energy, and reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

We write to express our concern about recent developments relative to the interplay between historic preservation and offshore wind development. Quite apart from the specifics of the project, we are troubled by the implications for all offshore wind of the recent Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) recommendation on the Cape Wind Project. If the ACHP's approach to historic preservation is adopted, it would establish a precedent that will make it difficult, if not impossible, to site offshore wind projects anywhere along the eastern seaboard.

In its letter, the ACHP recommends the Cape Wind project be disapproved, in large part because of the impact of the offshore turbines on views from various land-based historic properties 5 to 13 miles away. We are concerned that views "historically associated" with a property not be conflated with those that "inextricably contribute to a property's historic significance." If not clearly distinguished, this could set a precedent which would disqualify any project off our coasts if it is in view of historic sites. The ACHP also calls for disapproval of the project due to the "potential" loss of historic artifacts from the installation of the wind turbine foundations in the seabed; however, as pointed out in the recommendation, the survey effort complied with all requirements in Section 106 and no historic artifacts were discovered in sampling performed as part of state and federal environmental review.

Processes and standards must be transparent, predictable and applied fairly. Adopting the ACHP's recommendation sets a much more strict standard for offshore wind projects compared to other types of development, thwarting the compelling national priorities President Obama has

set and you have embraced – lowering our greenhouse gas emissions and regaining economic leadership through the development of clean, renewable energy.

Sincerely,



Governor Jack Markell
Delaware



Governor Martin O'Malley
Maryland



Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts



Governor Chris Christie
New Jersey



Governor David A. Paterson
New York



Governor Donald L. Carcieri
Rhode Island